

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

March 30, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

Milwaukee County had a multi-million dollar surplus for 2006.

That is not a headline you will expect to read today. Earlier in the week, a story ran with a headline that made it seem like the county faced a deficit. Instead, it was a division of a larger department that had the problem.

Overall, the county has a surplus in the ballpark of \$2 million, thanks to the department heads and staff that helped control budgets. In particular, special thanks go to the staffs of the Department of Administrative Services and the Department on Aging, and the Care Management Organization (CMO) of FamilyCare. In 2006, we generated a surplus while increasing the number of older adults we served throughout the year.

Some members of the County Board used the problem with the one division of a larger department in county government to attack me. Oddly, they did not issue a statement of praise later in the week when word came back about our overall surplus for 2006.

Either way, we are proud of our surplus and of our hard work to balance the county budget – without raising taxes.

Scott

Walker Hosts Kick-off for Golf Season, 100th Anniversary of Parks



On Wednesday, County Executive Scott Walker was joined by Parks Director Sue Black and a large group of golfers to kick-off the 2007 golf season at Currie Park Golf course. The golfers teed off together to start the season. Currently, 10 of the county's golf courses are open, with the remaining par 3 courses to open in the next few weeks.

The event also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the county park system. There will be a number of events throughout the year, including planting 100 trees throughout the park system, 100 concerts during the summer, a 100-round golf event at Brown Deer Golf Course, and a raffle to give away a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. For more information on the golf season and the anniversary celebration, go to

www.countyparks.com.

Walker Recognizes Contributions of County Arts Groups



County Executive Scott Walker recognized the significant contributions of the many arts and cultural groups in Milwaukee County Friday by presenting those groups with their annual funding through the Cultural, Artistic and Musical Programming Advisory Council (CAMPAC) grants.

The event took place at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 West Walnut Street. The center is home to many CAMPAC grant recipient organizations including, the African American Children's Theatre, Danceworks, Festival City Symphony, First Stage Children's Theater, Milwaukee Children's Choir, and the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Through CAMPAC, Milwaukee County provided \$288,188 to 35 arts organizations in the county. These organizations serve an important role in providing cultural programs and opportunities for a broad spectrum of Milwaukee County's population.

A performance by a jazz duo from the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music highlighted some of the talented groups receiving funds.

New Show Opening At the Domes

The Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Boulevard, invites visitors to its spring floral show, "Miss Spider's Garden" opening on March 31 through May 28th.

An amazing arrangement of spring flowers and plants including tulips, azaleas, daffodils, hydrangeas, crocuses, hyacinths, Easter lilies, grape hyacinths, pansies, snapdragons, delphiniums and hostas will be on display in the show dome.

The show will also feature a creatively designed spider's web complete with Miss Spider and garden critters to fire the imagination of children and adults. Guests will be able to wander through the winding pathways of the show dome, passing over an arched bridge overlooking the flowers and a reflecting pool with a sparkling fountain. The Domes are open every day of the week from 9am to 5pm. Children five and under enter free. For more information go to www.countyparks.com or call the Domes at (414) 649-9830.

Zoo Has New Resident



The Milwaukee County Zoo's newest resident was presented to the public today. Franklin, a Bactrian camel born March 7, is now on display in the outdoor Camel Yard.

Franklin is the fourth offspring of parents Sanchi and Moses. Franklin weighed 90 pounds at one day old and zookeepers report he is doing well and settling in to his new surroundings.